

## Groundhog and Katydid Replaced By Modern Weather Forecaster

The old time weather prophet and seer, like the one-horse shay, the walking plow, the hoop skirt and a dozen other things that we speak of today in terms of used to be, has gone out with his day and given place to a highly specialized and scientific method of predicting weather conditions.

Of course we still find him in some communities, but he is not looked upon today with the awe and admiration that he once was.

There are still many people who believe that if the wind blows out of the South on the sixth day of a certain month it will blow from that same direction so many days in that month. Of course there is still the cherished belief that if the crescent of a new moon is turned a certain way the weather will be dry and if turned another way it will be wet. The groundhog comes in for his share of notoriety when he saunters forth on the second day of February. Again, in the summer time the whip-poor-will is the authority on whether it will rain on the morrow or not. If he whistles it will not rain on the morrow. The katydid in the fall is always regarded as the herald that tells us with his first song that it is six weeks until frost. If there are heavy husks on the corn in the fall there will be a hard winter following. If the cat are restless and unsettled there is going to be a storm; and so on. We might enumerate any number of time honored signs that are a sure prediction, according to the old time weather man.

The modern weather man sits in his office as an ordinary business man. It is not necessary that he wear frakish clothes, that he wear a long beard, frock coat, straw hat, and live in a hut. He is surrounded by ticking instruments,

maps, charts, records and telephones. One instrument records the wind velocity, the precipitation, the sunshine and the temperature. He sends out daily weather predictions for the following day, based upon observations for a number of years and figured from a scientific standpoint. He answers dozens of calls daily from inquiring persons who have come to regard the U. S. Weather Bureau as a reliable and helpful service.

One day he stepped into the office of George Rowder, the local station and hear him answer many calls from the local people. The conversation is generally about as follows: "Hello! Yes! Probably sleet and snow tonight." Or, "No rain today; probably shower tomorrow." So it goes. Men marketing stock, or in harvest season, ask the weather man of the probable weather conditions and act accordingly. In the recent war no major operation was undertaken before first consulting the most complete and detailed review of probable weather conditions.

The modern weather man, through his records, shatters many beliefs and superstitions. When we have an unusually warm day, or a day seems unusually cold, immediately someone comes up with the statement that it was the coldest or hottest day, as the case might be, for many years. The weather man can soon find out by turning to his records. Only recently persons of the community were saying that the present month registered higher temperatures than at any time since 1890. A look at the records revealed that there had been several much warmer months of January than the present one.

The weather prophet of yesterday has passed with his generation.

## NEGROES ASK FOR UNIVERSITY

Their Legislator Wants Million Dollars for New Institution.

JEFFERSON CITY, Jan. 26.—Waltham M. Moore, the solitary negro legislator of the General Assembly, introduced his first bill in the House of Representatives today. The bill provides that Lincoln Institute, a teachers' training college here, shall be converted into a university for negroes. He asks that \$1,000,000 be appropriated to carry out the plan and that a board of curators be appointed to manage it. Moore's idea is to create a negro university which will be on a par with the University of Missouri.

The bill is a part of the state-wide program for negroes, and the negroes of the state are back of the measure. Dr. J. R. A. Crowland, a negro from St. Joseph, who was President McKinley's minister to Liberia and a delegate at large from Missouri to the Republican National Convention, was in Jefferson City at the opening of the present Legislature. At that time he outlined the bill which Moore introduced today.

### MEETINGS

Prof. Samuel D. Cramer will speak on "Some Things I Have Seen in Europe" at the meeting of the Columbia Library Club in the faculty room of the University Library Friday at 7:30 p. m.

The Maria Layne Gibson Circle will meet at the home of Mrs. J. A. Stewart on West Broadway at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Every member is requested to be present.



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## CROP OUTLOOK IS ENCOURAGING

Southern Hemisphere Reports Prospects as Good There.

Crop prospects are almost universally good in the Southern Hemisphere, but the latest estimates of the wheat area in Argentina, Australia, and the Union of South Africa show that previous estimates were too large, according to a report issued today by E. A. Logan, agricultural statistician for Missouri, and Jewell Mayes, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. The latest estimates place the wheat acreage in these three countries at 25,139,000 acres, as compared with 22,101,000 acres for the season of 1919-20.

Fine weather is prevailing in Argentina and harvesting is progressing under favorable conditions. The acreage of wheat, linseed and oats is estimated as follows: Wheat 14,816,000 acres, compared with 14,975,000 last year; linseed 3,481,000 acres compared with 3,522,000 last year; and oats 2,061,000 acres, compared with 2,301,000 last year.

Harvest prospects in Australia are exceeding expectations, in spite of rumors that the wheat crop of New South Wales has been jeopardized by heavy rain storms.

WHEAT BELOW NORMAL  
Wheat is somewhat below normal in the Union of South Africa, due to the drought which prevailed in most of the districts. The latest estimates show the area of wheat to be 823,000 acres, compared with 801,000 last year; barley 91,000 compared with 99,000 last year; and corn 564,000 acres compared with 558,000 last year.

In France, the acreage of winter crops is indicated to be somewhat larger than last year. Late severe frost accompanied by snowfall has been experienced. The cold weather is hindering the germination of young crops, which have, however, been protected by the covering of snow.

Wheat in Germany is less sturdy than usual, due to the drought which caused late seeding. The growing cereals are not spoken of very favorably but the acreage planted to wheat and rye is estimated to be about equal to that of last year.

YOUNG CROPS LOOKING WELL  
In Italy, autumn sowings are practically completed and the young crops are looking well. The weather has been unseasonably wet in the southern part and some damage by floods is reported. Unofficial estimates place the area of wheat at about 10,000,000 acres.

In Spain the new crops were sown under most favorable conditions, due to abundant rain.

In the United Kingdom, frost and snow stopped field work in the middle of December. There have been some light showers, but on the whole climatic conditions are not unfavorable for the crops.

### TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

FOR SALE—Brand new seven room bungalow at 1417 Beuchelle Ave. Also one acre building site in Westwood at real bargain. E. A. Collins, 1203 E. Broadway, Phone 603.

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FOR RENT—One-half room for man student, in modern house, block from campus; two tables, two dressers, \$7 a month. Phone 1071-red. K-126.

LOST—At Gymnasium or Schweitzer Hall a set of mechanical drawing instruments. Can identify by serial number. Call Foley, 1362-black. F-126.

LOST—Leather hood cover for automobile Thursday afternoon. Call 1170. F-125f

In India the prevailing drought is unrelieved and moisture is badly needed in the Punjab, Northwest Provinces, Central Provinces, and Bombay. Crop prospects are considered fair.

In North Africa reports of the new seedlings show an improvement, but the weather conditions in some parts have been recently very unfavorable. Advice from Algeria state that the young crops are now showing above ground in the more fertile soils. Much damage has been caused in certain districts by a plague of mice and gnats. Considerable areas will have to be resown.

In Tunis much of the area will have to be sown again because of the damage caused by storms, which have been more violent and devastating than any experienced for many years.

In Egypt a measure to limit next year's cotton crop one-third of the area of each estate has been drafted. This is intended to relieve the financial difficulties arising from the fall in the price of cotton. Owing to this situation, it is stated that an increased area will be devoted to cereals during the season 1920-21.

Better Meats—Richards Market, adv.

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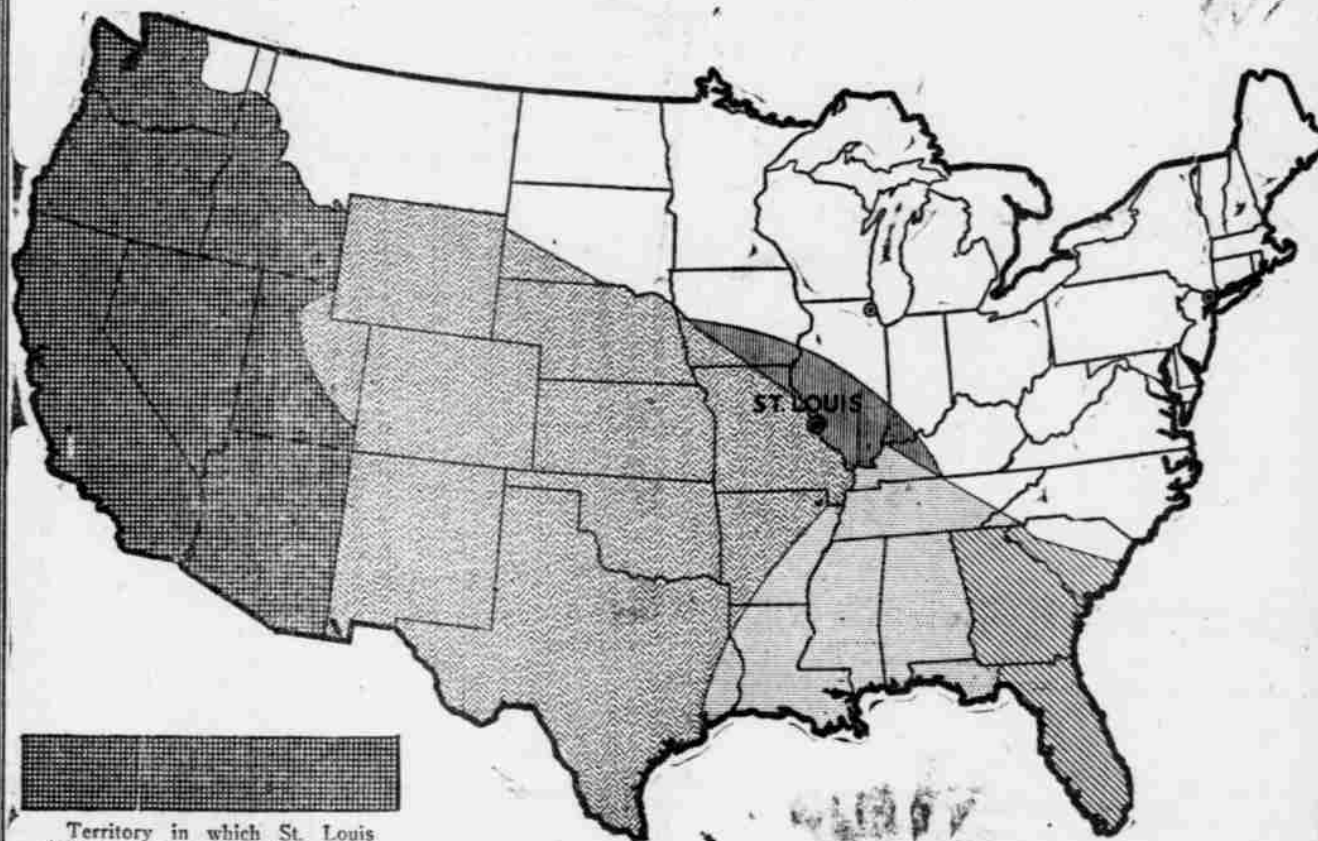
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St. Louis wholesale houses led the country in breaking high prices last October, forcing other markets to make price reductions. St. Louis houses took their losses and disposed of current stocks. They now have complete new spring stocks at readjusted prices for immediate delivery. The prices in most lines of merchandise have reached the low point. The early buyers will get the best selections.

### Package Car Service.

The St. Louis Chamber of Commerce has given special attention to building up a package-car system, which assures quick delivery for the spring season when you need rush shipments. More than 1,200 package cars leave St. Louis every night for points in the St. Louis trade zone, by which your mixed shipments will reach you on almost the same basis as express. This furnishes you an emergency method for replenishing stocks.

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